

BILL ARP.

THE GENIAL PHILOSOPHER AT HOME AGAIN.

North Carolina's School Facilities—Shuttle and Spool Factories—A Dog Congress—The Quakers and Their Peculiar Mode of Worship—Concord and Its Factory.

North Carolina is well abreast with Georgia in the facilities she is giving her children to obtain an education. During the last year there was drawn from her treasury seven hundred thousand dollars for this purpose. Georgia did not spend this much, although she had an income of three hundred thousand dollars from the State road.

Like Georgia, North Carolina has a State University at Chapel Hill, and has a Methodist college at Trinity, and a Baptist college at Wake Forest and a Presbyterian college at Davidson. Then there is the famous Bingham school and others of less note. These are for boys and are liberally patronized.

Trinity college is five miles from the Richmond and Danville railroad at High Point. It is situated on a high plateau of sandy loamy land and is envied by beautiful farms and many small industries that make these farms profitable. Just plant 150 students and 150 mechanics in a community if you want to see farming prosper. I wish I could put that sentence in italics. College boys are well behaved nowadays—better than they were before the war for they are poorer. Most of them were brought up poor and remember what a strain it is on their parents to keep them in college. Before the war most of the boys were rich and proud and a stingy boy was looked upon as a plebeian or a charity student, but now many of the boys mess together in clubs of eight or ten and hire a cook so as to reduce their board to the lowest possible limits. They lose no caste or fellowship by this, but are commended for it. I saw at Trinity the game of foot ball for the first time and I liked it. It is that same old "shinny" without the crooked sticks that we used to use and without the wooden ball. That shinny was a rough and dangerous game and I still have memories of hard knocks that laid me up for a time. Near Trinity is an extensive shuttle factory that supplies many southern mills and a factory that makes spindles for the Williamamitic thread company. There is also a large tannery and shoe factory that turns out 100 pair every day. Their shoes are all engaged before they are made, and command a better price than northern shoes, for the people know they are honest work and honest leather. A Bush Hill brogan will bring two dollars as readily as a northern brogan will bring one dollar and a half.

The dog congress was just beginning to convene at High Point. It convenes there every year about this time, and a stranger is liable to fall over a dog most anywhere about town. The hotel was crowded with them. I could hardly get to the register to record my name, and the clerk looked all around me to see how many dogs I brought. I took a quiet seat in a corner and for an hour or two listened to the yarns of these sportsmen as they told of their adventures that covered a territory from Maine to Mexico and included the Rocky Mountains. Some of them had been on the boards as minstrels and they wound up with banjo music and negro songs and a dance, all of which was entertaining and kept me awake and wondering how many kinds of people it took to make a world. Hundreds of sportsmen and dogs were expected at this congress, for there was a great wager up for the best day's work among the quails. These sports have leased the shooting privilege on ten thousand acres near by and have many other smaller areas secured. They start out by sunrise in long bodied hacks with six or eight in the seats and the dogs in the ballast, and return after night with bags full of birds that are to be shipped north by the first train. Their dogs are very precious, some of them rated at a thousand dollars and I was very careful not to offend them, and felt like bowing and tipping my hat as I gave them the side-walk and said "good morning dog."

There are some Quakers in these parts. They are a quiet, industrious people, they never quarrel or go to law, they won't buy steers with horns for fear they will fight. They

have a meeting house but no preaching, no singing, no pulpit, no nothing but solemn silence. It is just a place to meditate and ponder. There are a lot of common benches for the young folks who don't want to ponder and another lot of high benches at the end for the sanctified. These benches are just high enough to let the legs hang down without touching the floor. That position is supposed to be peculiarly favorable to meditation. I think I shall try it. They cross their hands devoutly and fix their eyes upon space, and do not move until their meditation provokes them to say something or to slide off the bench and pray. If they are moved to say something, it is a very little something—a line or a verse from the scripture such as "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord," or "Honor thy father and mother." When they slide down to pray the prayer is silent and short, and they slide up again and resume position. When they have worshipped enough some leader gives a sign and as the saints face each other on the high benches they all with one accord slide off and the service is over. The last handsake is the signal of relief to the young folks, and they get out as quickly as school boys at recess. Well, they like that because their fathers did and so it is all right. But I couldn't help ruminating on the different kinds of worship. One thing is certain—they will never proselyte the darkies to any alarming extent.

Concord is a nice railroad town. It is a mile from the depot and nearly a mile high up. It has a good trade and handles about twelve thousand bales of cotton. There is a large cotton mill here, and during all these labor troubles, it has moved quietly along and declared its usual semi-annual dividends. One of Powderly's men came there last spring to organize and he was politely invited to leave town, and he left. Those Concord folk are still rebellious notwithstanding the name and they cannot be driven by priest nor politician. The "ring" nominated a man for the legislature whom the boys did not like, and so out of burlesque they put up the biggest, dirtiest, hoggish old rip they could find and with the aid of the negroes actually elected him and I never saw a set of people so mortified. They carried the joke too far and were in a state of supreme repentance. Some advised that a writ of lunatico de inquirendo be sued out, but others are trying to get the old fellow to resign. He, too, thought it was a good joke of the boys, but the result swelled him up and he boasted of his victory to me. "I got 'em, by golly, I got 'em—dog my cats if I didn't. I'm gwine to Rolly, dinged if I ain't, and I'm gwine to pass a law that these here stuck up school teachers shall teach twelve hours a day, for fifty cents—dog'd if I don't, and I am gwine to have all the whiskey analyzed jes like they do juanna. They shall sell us better whiskey for ten cents a drink, dog'd if they shan't," and the tobacco juice ran down the corners of his mouth. Such are politics, concord or no concord. I do hope they will find some way to get out of the scrape.

Davidson college is one of the prettiest places that I have visited. It is quite an old time institution and they propose to celebrate its semi-centennial next June. It has turned out more Presbyterian preachers than any college in the south. It does not claim to be sectarian, and in fact is not, but as it is sustained in a measure by Presbyterian synods it is classed as a Presbyterian institution. It has an endowment that makes it comparatively independent, and any young man who desires to enter the Christian ministry gets his education free. The grounds around the college are lovely. Foot ball is a favorite game here too, that is late in the afternoon, but about bed time on Friday night the boys get on a musical, military tare and serenade the town. They have a base drum and a cornet and fill in with a rattle and go tooting around in double column. They show their appreciation of the the president and the professors and then finish up with a salute to the population at random. They honored me with a call and of course I had to respond. The music was so thrilling that I was electrified, and stretched forth my hand and exclaimed: "Ah! music, what is it and where doth it dwell? Soldiers can't fight without it; preachers can't preach without it; lovers can't court

without it; college boys can't go to sleep without it on Friday night." Toot! toot! Hurrah! Three cheers! Twenty minutes for dinner! And the kettle drum beat and the welkin rang. "History is repeating herself," said I. "Forty years ago I was doing just what you boys are doing to-night, and forty years hence you boys will be doing just what I am doing now." Toot! toot! Hurrah! hurrah for Bill Arp! Never say die! Don't give up the ship! Toot! toot! boom! boom! And the drums beat and the horn squealed.

Well it was splendid fun and I enjoyed it as much as the boys. They were just running over and had to do. They are all young men of something, good habits and good manners and faithful application to study but there is as fine a field for a music teacher at Davidson as I know of. While I was up stairs in a brick house the earthquake came along again and shook us up lively. It was the severest and lasted the longest of any that I have felt, and I did not like it at all. A little while before I had been shown where the great high columns that supported the gable projection of one of the college buildings had been displaced at their tops several inches. The quake of August 31st did that. I am not panicky nor finicky, but still I had rather live in a one-story wooden house these times. This is an off year and I am looking out for another fall of meteors. There is some kin between earthquakes and electricity and between electricity and the meteors. I remember seeing the stars fall in 1833 and my father said he felt his nerves to tingle just like he had hold of the arms of a magnetic battery. George Lester and I went out next morning and looked for the stars on the potato patch, but we couldn't find them. History records these meteoric displays as occurring on the twelfth of November. As far back as 1366 they fell on that night in great showers and there was red dust left on the roofs of houses. Humboldt tells of a great fall of meteors on the same night in 1787, and on the same night in 1822 and 1831 in Germany, and in 1833 in the United States. The next were on the same night in Europe in 1841 and 1846. I wonder what the twelfth of November has to do with business. I don't believe we understand everything no how.

Home again now for a season, but I am going back to North Carolina again soon. I like that State and her people. The latch string hangs on the outside and the dog is tied in the back yard. I met two preachers over there and they introduced themselves, and I told them I knew they were preachers when I saw them walking about town. One of them asked me how I knew it, and I said I couldn't tell exactly how, but their faces and their walk and their clothes said so. One of them was a large man and he had the biggest foot I ever saw on a white man. I think his shoe was about number fifteen, and it looks like a big dogwood glut that John splits rails with, and he calls it a "buster." "I'll tell you how you knew I was a preacher," said he. "You saw my feet and remembered the Scripture that says 'How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of those who bring glad tidings.'" He was a wag if he was a preacher, and as I replied, "Well I am sure I am in Piedmont now for this is the foot of the mountain," and I pointed down to his alligator brogans. He was no quaker for he smiled out loud and said "Jess so."

BILL ARP.

CURE FOR MILK FEVER.

D. A. Logan, of Cayucos, reports having cured two cows of milk fever by administering one tablespoonful of common soda dissolved in a teacupful of warm water, given to the cow from a bottle. Then immediately after this dose give in the same way a teacupful of vinegar mixed with a pint of warm water. The cow gets well without giving any medicine. A neighbor has succeeded in curing cows in the same way. This is deemed an important recipe and well worthy of trial.—*McD., in Pacific Rural Press.*

—Keep dairy salt and all other salt that is to be used for human food in clean packages and away from all foul odors, for salt will absorb impurities from bad air, and afterward impart into food with which it comes in contact. Serious losses have occurred from ignorance of this fact.

Farm Notes.

POTASH IN POTATO.

Few farm crops take up so much potash as the potato. It is an alkaline juice that stains the hands when paring potatoes; and it is best removed by oxalic acid. This alone should be a sufficient hint as to the kind of fertilizer most needed for potatoes, and is the reason why this crop soonest fails on sandy soils, where potash is usually deficient.

THE CANADA THISTLE.

The secret in killing the Canada thistle is in not giving it a chance to breathe until the close of the season. Many farmers carry on the warfare thoroughly for a time, but fail after midsummer, and let enough shoots appear in September and October to renew the lease of life for another year. This is especially true on land where wheat or other winter grains have been sown. Cut out the thistles. It will not injure but improve the wheat crop.

EXPORTS OF WHEAT.

The exports of wheat during September were 10,565,936 bushels against 3,581,558 the corresponding month in 1885, and of wheat-flour 820,942 barrels against 607,686 in September, 1885. Corn fell off nearly 1,200,000 bushels, and corn meal over 20,000 barrels for the month. The total value of breadstuffs exported for the month noted was \$14,282,528 against \$9,007,713 in September, 1885, and for the three months ending September 30, values were \$40,967,033 and \$25,439,371 respectively.

PARTURITION OF COWS.

Cows that have plenty of exercise and green, succulent food will usually calve without other difficulty than the too great a flow of milk, causing inflamed or caked udder. But as they are kept up for winter those that are to calve before spring will need greater care. One of the best feeds at this time is whole oats boiled until they are soft and then fed warm. If this is given for a few days before calving there will be no difficulty about the retention of the afterbirth. A few ears of new corn given daily are also excellent for cows at this time. So, also, is linseed meal. The danger from parturition in winter is, firstly, in constipation, which makes a feverish condition of the system, and, secondly, from colds induced by exposure to inclement weather. Cows about to calve must be kept housed during storms, be fed laxative food, and on no condition allowed for a week after calving to drink water which has not had the chill taken off. Cold drink is the main cause of most troubles among cows in parturition, and especially during severe weather.

DIVISION OF LAND IN GERMANY.

In Germany the extent of land devoted to agriculture amounts to 78,405,000 acres; apportioned into holdings of 2½ acres and less, 1,950,000 acres; of 2½ to 25 acres, 20,225,000; of 25 to 250 acres 37,000,000; of 250 acres and more, 16,000,000; comprising meadow land 14,000,000; cereal, vineyard and gardening land 64,000,000, viz., cereals and vegetables, 47,000,000; fodder, 6,000,000; pastures 8,100,000; gardening, 1,030,000; vintage, 335,000; rape, 330,000; flax, 270,000; hemp, 37,000; hops, 112,000; sugar beet, 837,000 and chicory 25,000 acres. The area of occupied by houses, yards, roads and highways, and covered by streams amounts to 6,800,000 acres, and the extent of pasture, heath and poor land is 12,000,000 acres. forests and woods cover an area of 34,000,000 acres, distributed as follows: deciduous 12,000,000 and coniferous 22,000,000 acres. The following is the number of farms and farm lots into which the whole of the 64,000,000 acres of arable land is divided: Of 2½ acres and less 2,323,316; 2½ to 25 acres, 2,274,096; 25 to 150 acres, 653,941; 150 acres and more, 24,991; total, 7,276,344.

THE WILD CARROT NUISANCE.

There is no question that the wild carrot is the degenerate offspring of cultivated carrots, left to seed and grow for years without cultivation. It is all the greater pest from the fact that it will thrive on any kind of land, and will both grow and seed on sod where, of course, its root has no opportunity to develop. But it has so degenerated that even the best cultivation will not produce a crop of eatable roots from wild carrot seed. When comparatively few in a clover pasture or meadow the

wild carrot may be pulled out by hand after heavy rains. It is easily seen at a distance by its white blossom, standing higher than the clover. But where it has once seeded heavily hand pulling is impracticable. The only sure way to get rid of it is to plow and reseed with clover, repeating this process so long as the wild carrot continues to be too abundant to pull. Mowing it down does no good, for it will shoot up from the stump and perfect its seed. If followed too persistently for this it will live over winter and perfect its seed the following season. Owing to the difficulty in keeping this seed down carrot seed should not be grown except where great care is taken that none of its seeds are scattered about the farm.

MAKING THE DESERT FERTILE.

A report has been submitted to the French Academy of Science by Col. Landas, who believes that the deserts of Africa can be made productive by irrigation, stating that he has put down an artesian well 300 feet deep that now discharges fresh water at the rate of 2,000 gallons a minute. There is now a fertile and wellstocked district about the well, and another is being put down.

TO ERADICATE SASSAFRAS.

EDITOR PROGRESSIVE FARMER.—Sassafras is an exceedingly troublesome growth, which seems to infest some soils, and it has long been a question with farmers how to effectually remove it. I have been a farmer for fifty years, during which I have had some experience with this pest, the benefit of which I will give your readers through your excellent paper. Some years ago, when a young man, I was engaged in assisting my father to haul and spread stable manure on his wheat land and it so happened that we spread some upon a place where the sassafras always came up very thick, and which gave us much trouble in the effort to exterminate by digging out. After this application of stable manure they never appeared again. A few years later my father had a similar experience with another portion of a field infested with this pest, which he labored hard and long to remove by digging. Remembering the effect of the previous manure application on the infested spot in the other field he applied fresh stable manure to those places with the same result. The roots were so effectually destroyed that they never afterwards appeared. This was an accidental discovery, but I give the result for the benefit of my brother farmers, that they may at least try it. If as successful with them as with me it will save many of them much hard labor.

Respectfully,
G. M. YODER.

TO PREVENT RUSTY BACON.

To ensure sweet, fine bacon the flitches when being cured should not be sopped, as it were, in brine. This is sure to impart the nauseous taste that sea pork has. Fresh, dry salt must be used, which should be renewed every four or five days. By placing the flitches in a salting trough which has a gutter round its edges to drain away the brine, the bacon will be kept dry, and although more salt will be used according to this method, the result will be much more satisfactory than the wet process. Rustiness is sometimes occasioned by bacon being oversmoked, or by being left too long hanging in the air. Before hanging bacon up for smoking, it is well to lay it on the floor and scatter the flesh side pretty thickly with bran, which, if well patted down upon it, will keep the smoke from getting into the little openings, and will make a sort of crust to be dried on. After being well cured, bacon may be kept good and sweet by being placed in a box covered six inches deep with clean dry wood ashes; after placing the bacon in the box, the same amount of wood ashes should be placed on the top of the bacon, and the box kept in a dry place. By using precautions such as these the bacon will doubtless be as good at the end of the year as when it was freshly cured.—*Land and Water.*

—Poultry farming doesn't take a great deal of land, but with good management the harvest comes every day, and though it is small its multiplication by all the days of the year makes a sum that compares favorably with more pretentious ventures.